

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for generating coverage data for accesses to dynamically allocated data during execution of code in a data processing system, the method comprising:

responsive to a request to dynamically allocate a memory area for dynamically allocated data, dynamically allocating the memory area;

responsive to dynamically allocating the memory area, associating the memory area with a data access indicator;

responsive to executing an instruction in the code at a processor in the data processing system, determining whether an access to a memory location associated with the data access indicator has occurred; and

if the data access indicator is associated with the memory area, changing a state of the data access indicator by the processor when the instruction is executed, wherein the coverage data for the dynamically allocated data is generated during execution of the code by the processor.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data access indicator includes an identification of a starting location and an ending location for the memory location allocated.

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data access indicator includes the identification of one byte beyond the ending location and wherein the access the one byte beyond the ending location indicates that a memory size of the memory area is insufficient.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the memory area includes a starting memory location, an ending memory location in which the starting memory location and the ending memory location span a requested size of memory equal to the request, and a subsequent memory location located one byte after a ending location, wherein the data access indicator is a first data access indicator in a set of data access indicators associated with the memory area, wherein the first data access indicator is associated with the starting memory location in the memory area, and wherein the associating step includes:

associating a second data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the ending location for the requested memory area; and

associating a third data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the subsequent memory location.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving call stack information in response to dynamically allocating the memory area.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

identifying code making the request for the memory area using the call stack information.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
determining calling sequences in the code using the call stack information.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the access indicator is located in a field in the instruction.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the access indicator associated with the instruction is located in a shadow memory.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the access indicator associated with the instruction is located in a page table.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein memory location accessed during execution of the code have set data access indicators set when the state of access indicators associated with an executed instruction are changed, while memory location unaccessed during execution of the code have unset data access indicators because the state of the unset data access indicators remain unchanged.
12. A data processing system for generating coverage data for accesses to dynamically allocated data during execution of code in a data processing system, the method comprising:

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

allocating means, responsive to a request to dynamically allocate a memory area for dynamically allocated data, dynamically for allocating the memory area;

associating means, responsive to dynamically allocating the memory area, for associating the memory area with a data access indicator;

determining means, responsive to executing an instruction in the code at a processor in the data processing system, for determining whether an access to a memory location associated with the data access indicator has occurred; and

changing means for changing a state of the data access indicator by the processor when the instruction is executed if the data access indicator is associated with the memory area, wherein the coverage data for the dynamically allocated data is generated during execution of the code by the processor.

13. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the data access indicator includes an identification of a starting location and an ending location for the memory location allocated.

14. The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the data access indicator includes the identification of one byte beyond the ending location and wherein the access the one byte beyond the ending location indicates that a memory size of the memory area is insufficient.

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

15. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the memory area includes a starting memory location, an ending memory location in which the starting memory location and the ending memory location span a requested size of memory equal to the request, and a subsequent memory location located one byte after a ending location, wherein the data access indicator is a first data access indicator in a set of data access indicators associated with the memory area, wherein the first data access indicator is associated with the starting memory location in the memory area, and wherein the associating means includes:

first means for associating a second data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the ending location for the requested memory area; and

second means for associating a third data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the subsequent memory location.

16. The data processing system of claim 12 further comprising:

retrieving means for retrieving call stack information in response to dynamically allocating the memory area.

17. The data processing system of claim 16 further comprising:

identifying means for identifying a process in code making the request for the memory area using the call stack information.

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

18. The data processing system of claim 16 further comprising:

determining means for determining calling sequences in the code using the call stack information.

19. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the access indicator is located in a field in the instruction.

20. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the access indicator associated with the instruction is located in a shadow memory.

21. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein the access indicator associated with the instruction is located in a page table.

22. The data processing system of claim 12, wherein memory location accessed during execution of the code have set data access indicators set when the state of access indicators associated with an executed instruction are changed, while memory location unaccessed during execution of the code have unset data access indicators because the state of the unset data access indicators remain unchanged.

23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for generating coverage data for accesses to dynamically allocated data during execution of code in a

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to a request to dynamically allocate a memory area for dynamically allocated data, dynamically for allocating the memory area;

second instructions, responsive to dynamically allocating the memory area, for associating the memory area with a data access indicator;

third instructions, responsive to executing an instruction in the code at a processor in the data processing system, for determining whether an access to a memory location associated with the data access indicator has occurred; and

fourth instructions for changing a state of the data access indicator by the processor when the instruction is executed if the data access indicator is associated with the memory area, wherein the coverage data for the dynamically allocated data is generated during execution of the code by the processor.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the memory area includes a starting memory location, an ending memory location in which the starting memory location and the ending memory location span a requested size of memory equal to the request, and a subsequent memory location located one byte after a ending location, wherein the data access indicator is a first data access indicator in a set of data access indicators associated with the memory area, wherein the first data access

Docket No. AUS920040062US1

indicator is associated with the starting memory location in the memory area, and wherein the second instructions includes:

first sub-instructions for associating a second data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the ending location for the requested memory area; and

second sub-instructions for associating a third data access indicator in the set of data access indicators with the subsequent memory location.

25. The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising:

fifth instructions for retrieving call stack information in response to dynamically allocating the memory area.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising:

sixth instructions for identifying a process in code making the request for the memory area using the call stack information.